

Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) A method for demulsifying an oil/water emulsion, said method comprising adding to said emulsion a crosslinked alkoxyated polyglycerol, said polyglycerol being the product of an acid- or alkali-catalyzed condensation of glycerol at temperatures between 200 °C and 300 °C, crosslinked with a multifunctional electrophilic compound having a molecular weight of from 1000 to 100 000 units measured by gel permeation chromatography with standard polyethylene glycol and comprising 5 to 100 glycerol units which are alkoxyated with C₂-C₄-alkylene oxide groups or a mixture of such alkylene oxide groups so that the crosslinked alkoxyated polyglycerol has a degree of alkoxylation of from 1 to 100 alkylene oxide units per free OH group, said crosslinked alkoxyated polyglycerol being added to the oil/water emulsion in amounts of from 0.0001 to 5% by weight, based on the oil content of the emulsion to be demulsified.
2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, in which the number of glycerol units is between 5 and 50.
3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, where the alkoxyated, crosslinked polyglycerol has a molecular weight of from 3000 to 50 000 units.
4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, in which the average degree of alkoxylation is between 1 and 70 alkylene oxide units per free OH group.
5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, in which the alkylene oxide is ethylene oxide or propylene oxide.
6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, in which a coalkoxylation with ethylene oxide and propylene oxide in the ratio of from 1:2 to 1:10 is present.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, where the multifunctional electrophilic compound is selected from the group consisting of bisphenol A diglycidyl ether, butane-1,4-diol diglycidyl ether, hexane-1,6-diol diglycidyl ether, ethylene glycol diglycidyl ether, cyclohexanedimethanol diglycidyl ether, resorcinol diglycidyl ether, glycerol diglycidyl ether, glycerol triglycidyl ether, glycerol propoxylate triglycidyl ether, polyglycerol polyglycidyl ether, p-aminophenol triglycidyl ether, polypropylene glycol diglycidyl ether, pentaerythritol tetraglycidyl ether, sorbitol polyglycidyl ether, trimethylolpropane triglycidyl ether, castor oil triglycidyl ether, diaminobiphenyl tetraglycidyl ether, soya oil epoxide, adipic acid, maleic acid, phthalic acid, maleic anhydride, succinic anhydride, dodecylsuccinic anhydride, phthalic anhydride, trimellitic anhydride, pyromellitic anhydride, dimethoxydimethylsilane, diethoxydimethylsilane, toluene diisocyanate, diphenylmethane diisocyanate, and mixtures thereof.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, where the crosslinking step is carried out after the alkoxylation of the polyglycerols.